

**Patents****IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

JAN 12 2000

Group Art Unit: 1733

Examiner: Sam Chuan Yao

P.D. File No.: 30-2138CIP1

In re Application of: CHARLES EDWARD BOWERS

Serial No.: 08/933,822

Filed: September 19, 1997

For: YARN WITH HEAT-ACTIVATED BINDER MATERIAL AND PROCESS  
OF MAKING

Petersburg, VA 23804

January 12, 2000

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231**AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action mailed July 15, 1999, please enter the following amendment and remarks:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel, without prejudice, claim 17.

Please amend claim 16 as follows:

AK Amended 16. (amended) A process for producing a yarn suitable for tufting, said process comprising the steps of:

- a. forming a bundle of fiber prior to spinning;
- b. ring spinning or wrap spinning the bundle of fiber with a second fiber to form a yarn, said second fiber being twisted or wrapped uniformly around the bundle of fiber and comprising a heat-activated binder material having a melting point lower than that of said bundle of fiber. [range of about 105° to 190°C under ambient humidity conditions to form a] said yarn comprising 0.1 to 12 weight percent of the binder material;
- c. heating the yarn sufficiently to melt the binder material;  
followed by
- d. cooling the yarn to solidify the binder material.

Please add claim 21 that follows: